

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-37 (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically customizing medical protocols, comprising the steps of:

receiving data relating to one or more patients;

customizing one or more medical protocols including a medication regimen based on the received data to derive one or more customized medical protocols;

transmitting the one or more customized medical protocols and/or information associated therewith to one or more medical monitoring devices associated with the one or more patients;

using the medical monitoring devices, monitoring at least one of compliance to the medication regimen by the one or more patients, compliance to the medical protocol by the one or more patients, and the health status of the one or more patients.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~83~~ 38, wherein the one or more medical protocols include at least one of:

a medical treatment plan;

a medical monitoring schedule;

a medication monitoring schedule;

a description of one or more events associated with the medical monitoring schedule; and one or more medical instructions; and

one or more questions related to medication use.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~83~~ 38, wherein the data relating to a patient is received from a medical monitoring device associated with the patient, the data including at least one of:

- a response to a medical questionnaire;
- information related to a medical symptom;
- information related to medication use by the patient;
- information related to a monitored event and/or condition associated with the patient;
- information related to a medical reaction to a medical treatment; and
- information related to a physical condition of the patient.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~83~~ 38, wherein the information related to a customized medical protocol comprises at least one of:

- one or more medical questionnaires;
- one or more behaviors to be carried out by the patient;
- one or more messages; and
- one or more instructions related to medical treatment.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~83~~ 38, wherein the information related to a customized medical protocol is ~~converted~~ received from the customized medical protocol.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the information related to a customized medical protocol is received ~~converted~~ by a corresponding medical monitoring device.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the information related to a customized medical protocol is converted by a ~~device located remotely from~~ corresponding medical monitoring device that receives the information.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~83~~ 38, wherein the one or more patients have at least one common characteristic ~~determined based on the data received from the corresponding or or more medical monitoring devices; .~~

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein the common characteristic relates at least one of:

demographics;

one or more diagnoses;

one or more medications prescribed to the patient;

a physical condition;

a mental condition;

a disease and/or stage thereof;

a medical condition;

a reaction to a medical treatment; and

a clinical trial associated with a drug.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~83~~ 38, wherein each of the medical monitoring devices is associated with a corresponding patient and is used to monitor the corresponding patient based on a medical protocol.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the medical monitoring device associated with a corresponding patient is configured for performing, based on a medical protocol, at least one of:

- administering a medication intake schedule;
- dispensing a medication following a plan;
- educating about one or more medications;
- educating about one or more medical conditions;
- gathering information in accordance with a monitoring schedule;
- generating an alert based on information gathered;
- posing a questionnaire and gathering a response thereof;
- providing an instruction;
- monitoring an event and/or a condition;
- converting a medical protocol into a set of events;
- converting a medical protocol into a set of questionnaires;
- transmitting information;
- receiving a message; and
- receiving a medical protocol.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~83~~ 38, wherein the step of customizing comprises:

- customizing a medical protocol related to a patient based on data received from a medical monitoring device associated with the patient;
- determining one or more characteristics of the patient;
- identifying one or more different patients who possess the one or more characteristics;
- and
- customizing one or more medical protocols related to the one or more different patients.

50. (Withdrawn) A method for automatically delivering medication, comprising the steps of:

monitoring data relating to a patient using a sensor attached to or implanted in a patient;  
generating an electrical signal from the sensor relating to delivering a medication to the patient in accordance with an accessible medical protocol associated with the patient; and  
dispensing, by a medical device, a dose of the medication automatically in response to the electrical signal.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the signal includes an indication of the dose and a time at which the medication is to be dispensed.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the signal includes an indication of an event, upon whose occurrence the medication is to be dispensed.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 52, wherein the occurrence of the event is reported and/or monitored by a medical monitoring device associated with the patient.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the signal is supplied by a medical monitoring device associated with the patient.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the medical protocol is stored on the medical monitoring device and is used in administering the medical treatment of the patient.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55, wherein the medical protocol is customized for one or more patients, including the patient.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 56, wherein the customization of the medical protocol is performed based on data received from one or more medical monitoring devices associated with the one or more patients.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the step of dispensing is performed by one of a device implanted in the patient, a device external to the patient, and a combination thereof.

59. (Withdrawn) A method for medical monitoring, comprising the steps of:  
receiving a signal indicating an occurrence of an event relating to a patient;  
automatically customizing a medical protocol associated with the patient in response to the occurrence of the event to generate a dynamically customized medical protocol for the patient;  
automatically administering a procedure determined based on the dynamically customized medical protocol for the patient.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein the event is scheduled to be monitored based on the medical protocol associated with the patient.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein the event includes at least one of:  
a physical event;  
a mental event;  
a psychological event; and  
an informational event.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein the occurrence of the event is detected by a monitoring device.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein the monitoring device is one of an implanted device internal to the patient and an external device.

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein the occurrence of the event is reported by the patient.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 64, wherein the patient reports the occurrence of the event as a response to a questionnaire posted by a medical monitoring device, acting in accordance with the medical protocol associated with the patient.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, wherein the questionnaire is posted by the medical monitoring device at a time determined based on the medical protocol.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein the medical protocol is customized for one or more patients, including the patient.

68. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein the step of automatically administering a procedure is performed by a medical monitoring device.

69. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, wherein the procedure includes:  
generating a warning signal; and  
sending the warning signal to a remote location.

70. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein the warning signal includes a description of a medical state regarding the patient assessed in connection with the occurrence of the event.

71. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, wherein the administering the procedure includes:

obtaining a medical treatment plan generated based on a medical state regarding the patient assessed in connection with the occurrence of the event;  
implementing the medical remedial action plan.

72. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the medical treatment plan is generated by the medical monitoring device and/or received from a remote location.



73. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the medical treatment plan includes at least one of:

- dispensing a medication based on a scheduled time and/or under a certain condition;
- providing instructions; and
- monitoring one or more additional events based on a certain schedule.

74. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method for automatically customizing medical protocols, comprising the steps of:

- receiving ~~from a medical monitoring device~~ medical data associated with a patient;
- identifying one or more other patients who have characteristics common to the patient;
- retrieving information associated with the one or more other patients;
- customizing medical protocols including medication regimens associated with the patient and the one or more other patients based on the received medical data and the retrieved information to derive customized medical protocols for the patient and the one or more other patients;

- using the medical monitoring device, monitoring compliance by the patient to the medication regimen;

- transmitting the customized medical protocols and/or information associated therewith to medical monitoring devices associated with the patient and the one or more other patients.

75. (Currently Amended) A system for customizing medical ~~protocol~~ protocols, comprising:

- receiving means configured for receiving data relating to one or more patients;
- customizing means configured for automatically customizing one or more medical protocols including medication regimens based on the received data to derive one or more customized medical protocols;
- monitoring means for monitoring compliance with the medication regimen by a patient;
- and

transmission means configured for transmitting the one or more customized medical protocols and/or information associated therewith to one or more medical monitoring devices associated with the one or more patients.

76. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for automatically delivering medication, comprising:  
monitoring means configured for monitoring data relating to a patient from a sensor attached or implanted in the patient;

generating means configured for generating an electrical signal for delivering a medication to the patient in accordance with an accessible medical protocol for the patient; and

dispensing means configured for dispensing automatically a dose of the medication in response to the electrical signal.

77. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 76, further comprising a control means configured for monitoring the dose and a time at which the medication is to be dispensed according to the medical protocol.

78. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 76, further comprising detecting means for detecting an occurrence of an event upon which the medication is to be dispensed according to the medical protocol.

79. (Withdrawn) An apparatus for medical monitoring, comprising:  
receiving means configured for receiving a signal indicating an occurrence of an event relating to a patient;

customizing means configured for automatically customizing a medical protocol associated with the patient in response to the occurrence of the event to generate a dynamically customized medical protocol for the patient; and

administering means configured for administering a procedure determined based on the dynamically customized medical protocol for the patient.

80. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically customizing medical protocols, comprising:

receiving means configured for receiving data from a medical monitoring device associated with a patient;

identifying means configured for identifying one or more other patients who have characteristics common to the patient;

retrieving means configured for retrieving information associated with the one or more other patients;

customizing means configured for customizing medical protocols including a medication regimen associated respectively with the patient and the one or more other patients based on the received data and the retrieved information to derive customized medical protocols for the patient and the one or more other patients;

monitoring means for monitoring compliance with the medication regimens by the respective patients; and

transmitting means configured for transmitting the customized medical protocols and/or information associated therewith to medical monitoring devices associated with the patient and the one or more other patients.

81. (Currently Amended) A method for customizing a medical protocol of a patient, comprising the step of:

implementing one or more medical monitoring devices to:

provide medical questionnaires to one or more patients,

select a specific questionnaire to provide to the patient based on one or more shared characteristics of the patients,

receive from the patient answers to one or more questions from the questionnaire, and

based at least in part upon the answers to the one or more of the questions by an individual patient, ~~develop~~ provide a medication regimen, and trigger an event conveying information to the individual patient regarding the administration of a medication based on the medication regimen; and  
monitor patient compliance to the medication regimen.

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 87 ~~81~~, wherein the event includes one or more of:

providing a new question for the patient to answer;  
providing new information to the patient;  
~~provide~~ providing new medical advice to the patient;  
providing a medication to the patient; and  
providing a recommendation to the patient to carry out one or more behaviors related to managing their health.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the customized medical protocols include a medication protocol customized for each patient.

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the customized medical protocols include medication protocols customized for each patient.

85. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 75, wherein the customized medical protocols include medication protocols customized to individual patients.

86. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 80, wherein the customized medical protocols include medication protocols individualized for each patient.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, wherein the information includes a medication protocol customized to the individual patient.

88. (New) The method of claim 38, including:

using the medical monitoring devices, prompting the one or more patients to take medication in accord with the medication regimens, and modifying the medical protocol based on the monitored compliance.

89. (New) The method of claim 38, including correlating monitored compliance with other of the received data for modifying the medical protocol.

90. (New) The method of claim 38, including generating voice prompts for prompting the one or more patients to take medication in accord with the medication regimens.

91. (New) The method of claim 90 including recording the medication compliance of the one or more patients.

92. (New) The method of claim 38, including generating voice prompts for querying the one or more patients regarding their health status, and prompting the one or more patients to provide answers to one or more queries related to their health status.

93. (New) The system of claim 80, wherein the means for customizing is responsive, in part, to monitored medication regimen compliance.

94. (New) The system of claim 81, wherein the device is further implemented to provide voice prompts.

95. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the medical monitoring device transmits the monitored medical protocol information to a remote device, which analyzes the information, and transmits information to a second remote device, based upon the analysis.

96. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein information related to compliance to the medication regimens is transmitted from one or more medication containers or packages remotely located from the medical monitoring device

97. (New) The method of claim 38 wherein the transmission of information is via wireless communication.